

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. In an apparatus, a method of operation comprising:  
2 powering the apparatus from a backup power source, in response to the  
3 apparatus being in an AC absence condition; and  
4 after drawing on the backup power source for a period of time,  
5 automatically shutting off the backup power source.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises placing the  
2 apparatus in a suspended to memory state in response to the AC absence  
3 condition, including scheduling a real time clock (RTC) to initiate waking of the  
4 apparatus after the period of time, to facilitate the shutting off of the backup  
5 power source.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the placing comprises intervening by a  
2 basic input/output system (BIOS) in a process initiated by an operating system  
3 (OS) of the apparatus to suspend the apparatus to memory, in response to the  
4 AC absence condition, to schedule the RTC to initiate waking of the apparatus  
5 after the period of time.
- 1 4. The method of claim 2, wherein the method further comprises a basic  
2 input/output system (BIOS) canceling the scheduled waking of the apparatus by  
3 the RTC as part of a resume process initiated in response to AC being re-present  
4 at the apparatus.

- 1 5. The method of claim 2, wherein the method further comprises the RTC  
2 initiating waking of the apparatus, after passing of the period of time, including as  
3 part of waking of the apparatus, a basic input/output system (BIOS) causing the  
4 backup power source to be shut off, transitioning the apparatus to an un-powered  
5 state instead.
- 1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the BIOS causes the backup power  
2 source to be shut off as part of the waking of the apparatus if AC remains absent.
- 1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises placing the  
2 apparatus in a suspended to memory state in response to the AC absence  
3 condition, including setting a timer to expire after the period of time, to facilitate  
4 the shutting off of the backup power source.
- 1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the placing comprises intervening by a  
2 basic input/output system (BIOS) in a process initiated by an operating system  
3 (OS) of the apparatus to suspend the apparatus to memory, in response to the  
4 AC absence condition, to set the timer to expire after the period of time.
- 1 9. The method of claim 7, wherein the method further comprises a basic  
2 input/output system (BIOS) canceling the scheduled expiration of the timer as  
3 part of a resume process initiated in response to AC returning.
- 1 10. The method of claim 7, wherein the method further comprises  
2 the timer expiring after passing of the period of time; and  
3 a companion logic of the timer shutting off of the backup power source,  
4 placing the apparatus in an un-powered state.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the timer shuts off the backup power  
2 source if AC remains absent.

1 12. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises  
2 monitoring for absence of AC to the power supply; and  
3 generating a signal indicating AC absence on detection of absence of AC  
4 to the power supply.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the monitoring and generating are  
2 performed by the power supply.

1 14. The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises facilitating  
2 specification to the apparatus the period of the time.

1 15. A system comprising:  
2 a power supply to supply power to the system, including a backup power  
3 source to supply power during absence of AC to the power supply; and  
4 an arrangement coupled to the power supply to shut off the power supply,  
5 after drawing on the backup power source for a period of time to power the  
6 system during the AC absence.

1 16. The system of claim 15, wherein the arrangement comprises a real time  
2 clock (RTC) employable to initiate waking of the system after the period of time,  
3 to facilitate shutting off of the backup power source.

1 17. The system of claim 16, wherein the arrangement further comprises a  
2 basic I/O system (BIOS) operatively coupled to the RTC to intervene in a process

- 3 initiated by an operating system (OS) to suspend the system to memory, to
- 4 schedule the RTC to initiate waking of the system after the period of time.

1 18. The system of claim 16, wherein the arrangement further comprises a  
2 basic I/O system (BIOS) equipped to cancel the scheduled initiation of waking of  
3 the system by the RTC as part of a resume process to resume the system to an  
4 active state in response to AC being re-present at the system.

1 19. The system of claim 16, wherein the arrangement further comprises a  
2 basic I/O system (BIOS) equipped to cause the backup power source to be shut  
3 off when the RTC initiates waking of the system.

1 20. The system of claim 17, wherein the BIOS is further equipped to cause the  
2 backup power source to be shut off if AC remains absent.

1 21. The system of claim 15, wherein the arrangement comprises a timer  
2 settable to expire after the period of time, to facilitate shutting off of the backup  
3 power source.

1 22. The system of claim 21, wherein the arrangement further comprises a  
2 basic I/O system (BIOS) operatively coupled to the timer to intervene in a  
3 process initiated by an operating system (OS) to suspend the system to memory,  
4 to schedule the timer to expire after the period of time.

1 23. The system of claim 22, wherein the BIOS is further equipped to cancel  
2 the scheduled expiration of the timer as part of a resume process to resume the  
3 system to an active state in response to AC being re-present at the system.

1 24. The system of claim 23, wherein the system further comprises a circuit  
2 coupled to the timer to generate a shut off signal to shut off the backup power off,  
3 at the expiration of the timer.

1 25. The system of claim 24, wherein the circuit is further equipped to receive a  
2 AC condition signal indicating whether AC presence or absence, and condition  
3 the generation of the shut off signal based on the AC condition signal.

1 26. The system of claim 21 wherein the system further comprises a controller  
2 to control at least a selected one of an input and an output of the system, and the  
3 timer is a part of the controller.

4 27. The system of claim 21, wherein the timer is a part of the power supply.

1 28. The system of claim 15, wherein the arrangement is further equipped to  
2 facilitate specification of the period of time to the system.

1 29. The system of claim 15, wherein the system further comprises a  
2 networking interface.

1 30. A power supply comprising:  
2 an output interface;  
3 a backup power source; and  
4 a switch conditionally coupling the integral backup power source to the  
5 output interface to output power through the output interface during absence of  
6 AC to the power supply, including a control interface to allow the backup power

- 7 source to be uncoupled from the output interface to stop the backup power  
8 source from outputting power through the output interface.
- 1 31. The power supply of claim 30, wherein the power supply further comprises  
2 a monitor to monitor for presence or absence of AC to the power supply, and to  
3 generate a signal indicating the presence or absence of AC accordingly.
- 1 32. The power supply of claim 30, wherein the power supply further comprises  
2 a timer settable to expire after a period of time to shut off the backup power  
3 source.
- 1 33. An article of manufacture comprising:  
2 a storage medium;  
3 a plurality of programming instruction stored therein, designed to enable  
4 an apparatus to be able to perform, when the apparatus is in an AC absence  
5 condition, at least a selected one of  
6 (a) setting a real time clock (RTC) to initiate waking of the apparatus  
7 after passing of a period of time, and  
8 (b) setting a timer to expire after the period of time,  
9 to facilitate shutting off a backup power source.
- 1 34. The article of claim 33, wherein the programming instructions are further  
2 designed to enable the apparatus to perform the selected one of the settings,  
3 when intervening in a process to suspend the apparatus to memory.
- 1 35. The article of claim 33, wherein the programming instructions are further  
2 designed to enable the apparatus to cancel the selected one of the settings

3 performed, as part of a resume process to resume the apparatus into an active  
4 state in response to AC being re-present at the apparatus.

1 36. The article of claim 33, wherein the programming instructions are further  
2 designed to enable the apparatus to shut off the backup power source when the  
3 RTC initiates waking of the apparatus after passing of the time period.

1 37. The article of claim 36, wherein the programming instructions are further  
2 designed to enable the apparatus to perform the shut off conditioned on AC  
3 remains absent at the apparatus.

1 38. The article of claim 33, wherein the programming instructions implement  
2 the enabling of the apparatus to perform the selected one of the settings as part  
3 of a basic input/output system (BIOS).